

HOUSE BILL No. 1227

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 1-2-15.

Synopsis: Designates the monarch as the state butterfly. Designates the monarch butterfly as the official state butterfly of Indiana.

Effective: July 1, 2016.

Mahan

January 11, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.



Second Regular Session of the 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning state emblems.

Whereas, the monarch butterfly, with its distinctive orange, black, and white wings, is the most recognizable and most popular butterfly in the United States;

Whereas, millions of school children have raised monarch butterflies in class projects and have learned about metamorphosis by watching monarch caterpillars transform into adult butterflies;

Whereas, the monarch butterfly is a Hoosier favorite, arriving in Indiana every May and remaining until late September;

Whereas, the monarch butterfly's annual migration to central Mexico for the winter and back to northern North America in the spring, a journey of up to 3,000 miles that takes several months and multiple generations of the butterfly, is a unique and amazing phenomenon, and the monarch is the only butterfly known to make such a migration;

Whereas, counts taken at overwintering sites in Mexico suggest that the population of eastern monarch butterflies is declining, and factors such as loss of habitat and reduced access to milkweed (the only plant



on which monarch butterflies will lay their eggs and the primary food source for monarch caterpillars) are suspected as causes of the decline;

Whereas, conservationists believe that the planting of milkweed in "butterfly gardens" and the raising of monarchs by hand for release back into nature will help the monarch butterfly population in Indiana;

Whereas, the monarch butterfly, because of its metamorphosis from caterpillar to adult and its remarkably perilous migration, is a symbol of transformation, heroism, and strong will;

Whereas, Hoosiers have shown their love of nature by creating beautiful parks and nature preserves and by restoring species like the bald eagle, and drawing attention to the monarch butterfly will likely lead Hoosiers to come to its aid by planting butterfly gardens and supporting monarch propagation efforts; and

Whereas, The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc., having approved the motion of The Garden Club of Marion, encourages the state of Indiana to adopt the monarch butterfly as the official state butterfly: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 1-2-15 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2016]:
4 **Chapter 15. State Butterfly**
5 **Sec. 1. The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is designated**
6 **as the official state butterfly of Indiana.**

